

Francis Freeling.



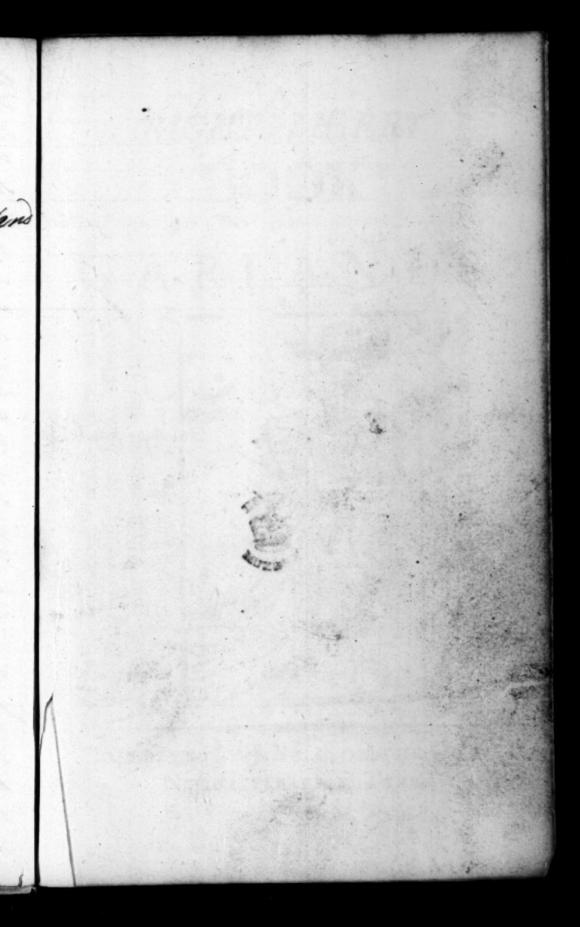
Francis Freeling.

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RIGHT MERRY BOOK

OF

GARLANDS.

COME, ye Poets and Pipers kittle, Fra Duncan Fraiser to Tom Whittle; And let your Mirth resound the Hallan, Your Chanters tune like Jemmy Allan;



nd fing to charm both Friend and Foe, NORTHUMBRIA's Weel or Woe.

COLLECTED BY J. BELL, ON THE QUAY,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

RICHT MERRY

2001

TO

GARLANDS.



COLLECTED BY J. DELL, ON THE QUAY,

LAIDLEY WORM

LAIDLE TO WORM

SPINDLESTON HEUGH

Virgo jam serpens sinnosa volumina versat, Mille trahens varios adverso sole colores, Arrectis horret squamis et sibilat ore; Arduaque insurgens navem-de littorepulsar.

A fong above 500 years old, made by the old mountain-bard, Duncan Frasier living on Cheviot A D. 1270.

Printed from an antient manuscript.

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PRINTED IN THE YEAR 1780

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THE

LAIDLEY WORM



Spindleston Heugh.

The king is gone from Bambrough caftle S
Long may the princess mourn,
Long may she stand on the castle wall,
Looking for his return.

She has knotted the keys upon a firing, And with her she has them ta'en, She has cast them o'er her lest shoulder, And to the gate she is gane.

She tripped out, she tripped in,
She tript into the yard:
But it was more for the king's sake,
Than for the queen's regard.

It fell out on a day, the king Brought the queen with him home;

And all the lords, in our country,

To welcome them did come.

Oh! welcome father, the lady cries,
Unto your halls and bowers;
And so are you my step mother,
For all that's here is yours.

A Lord said, wondering while she spake,
This princess of the north
stile Surpasses all of female kind
In beauty, and in worth.

The envious queen replied, at least,
You might have excepted me;
In a few hours, I will her bring
Down to a low degree.

I will her liken to a Laidley worm,
That warps about the stone,
And not, till Childy Wynd † comes back,
Shall she again be won.

The princess stood at the bower door
Laughing, who could her blame?
But e'er the next day's sun went down,
A long worm she became.

There is a fireet now called the Wynd Bambrough.

For seven miles east, and seven miles west,

And seven miles north, and south,

No blade of grass or corn could grow,

So venomous was her mouth.

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The milk of seven stately cows,

It was costly her to keep,

Was brought her daily, which she drank

Before she went to sleep.

At this day may be seen the cave,
Which held her folded up,
And the stone trough, the very same
Out of which she did sup.

Word went east, and word went west,
And word is gone over the sea;
That a Laidley worm in Spindleston HeughWould ruin the north country.

Word went east, and word went west,
And over the sea did go;
The child of Wynd got wit of it,
Which filled his heart with woe.

They thirty were and three:

I wish I were at Spindleston,

This desperate worm to see.

We have no time now here to waste,

Hence quickly let us fail:

My only fister Margaret

Something, I fear, dothail.

They built a ship without delay, With masts of the rown tree,

With flutring fails of filk so fine, And set her on the sea.

They went on board. The wind with speed Blew them along the deep,

At length they spied an huge square tower
On a rock high and steep.

The sea was smooth, the weather clear,
When they approached nigher,
King Ida's castle they well knew,
And the banks of Bambroughshire.

To see what she could see;
There she espied a gallant ship

Sailing upon the sea.

When she beheld the silken sails,
Full glancing in the sun,
To sink the ship she sent away
Her witch wives every one.
The

The spells were vain The hags returned
To the queen in forrowful mood,
Crying. that witches have no power,
Where there is rown-tree wood.

Which in the haven lay,
With armed men to board the ship,
But they were driven away.

The worm lept up, the worm lept down,
She plaited round the stone;
And ay as the ship came to the land
She banged it off again.

The child then ran out of her reach
The ship on Budley-sand;
And jumping into the shallow sea
Securely got to land.

And now he drew his berry-broad sword,
And laid it on her head;
And swore if she did harm to him
That he would strike her dead.

O! quit thy fword, and bend thy bow And give me kiffes three; For though am a poisonous worm, No hurt I'll do to thee. (7)

Oh! quit thy sword, and bend thy bow,

And give me kisses three;

If I'm not won, e'er the sun go down,

Won I shall never be.

He quitted his tword and bent his bow, He gave her kiffes three; She crept into a hole a worm, But out stept a lady.

No cloathing had this lady fine,
To keep her from the cold;
He took his mantle from him about,
And round her did it fold.

He has taken his mantle from him about, And in it he wrapt her in And they are up to Bambrough castle, As fast as they can win.

His absence and her serpent shape, The king had long deplored. He now rejoyced to see them both Again to him restored.

The queen they wanted, whom they found All pale, and fore afraid;
Because she knew her power must yield
To Childy Wynd's, who said Woe

(8)

Woe be to thee, thou wicked witch,
An ill death mayeft thou dee;
As thou my fifter hast lik'ned,
So lik'ned shalt thou be:

I will turn you into a toad,
That on the ground doth wend:
And won, won shalt thou never be
Till this world hath an end.

Now on the fand near Ida's tower She crawls a loathfome toad And venom spits on every maid She meets upon her road.

The virgins all of Bambrough town
Will swear that they have seen
This spiteful toad of monstrous size
Whilst walking they have been.

All folks believe within the shire

This story to be true,

And they all run to Spindleston

The cave and trough to view.

This fact, now Duncan Frasier
Of Cheviot, sings in rhime;
Lest Bambrough-shire-men should forget
Some part of it in time.

Detoin a province in a succession of